

**Subject: *Our Response to the Gospel***

**Scripture: *1 Corinthians 15:1-11***

In a recent Facebook post some shared this:

- *Religion doesn't save you, change you, or set you free. Only Jesus does.*

That's partly true. Jesus will save any person who responds to Him the right way, the Biblical way. It is not enough to know that Jesus saves. Everybody knows that.

### **What is the gospel?**

According to the Bible, the gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for our sins according to the scriptures, He was buried, and He rose again the third day according to the scriptures. We call it the gospel, the good news. But you can't really appreciate the good news until you realize the bad news. The bad news is that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The bad news is the wages of sin is death. The bad news is that sin affects everything. Like Humpty-Dumpty, we can't put everything together again. We live in a sinful world and we are not able to reverse the curse. We are sinners by birth, by choice, and by habit. We sin because we are sinners by nature, and we are unable to change ourselves. We are dead in trespasses and sin. That's the bad news that make the good news of the gospel so good.

The good news is that Jesus did something *for us* at Calvary so He could do something *in us* and *through us* in salvation. The good news is that Jesus loves us even though we are sinners, but He doesn't leave us like we are. He saves us and then changes us. The gospel is good news because it is the difference between life and death, between heaven and hell, between holiness and sin, between victory and defeat, between hope and no hope.

**1 Corinthians 15:22** *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

### **What is the right response to the gospel?**

What is the right response, the Biblical way to respond to the gospel of Christ? We see the response of believers in this text. This is the Christian response to the gospel, the saving response to the gospel. Paul is writing this to "brethren" (brothers, vs. 1). He had preached the gospel to them as he did everywhere he went.

- Receive the gospel (vs. 1)
- Stand in the gospel (vs. 1)
- Be saved by the gospel (vs. 2)
- Believe the gospel (vs. 11)

All these words indicate that we have a responsibility in the way we respond. We are free to choose, but we are not free to choose the consequences of our choice. In the middle of these verses there is a solemn warning (vs. 1). We must keep in memory what we have heard. We

must hold on to it and make sure it is not a shallow or superficial kind of faith. Otherwise we will have believed in vain. “In vain” means to no purpose (the same word used in verse 58).

**1 Corinthians 15:58** *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.* Since Jesus is alive from the dead, and since we will be raised from the dead, how we serve the Lord matters. Our work for the Lord has an eternal purpose.

Based on what the Bible teaches here and in other places we know the right response to the gospel:

- The gospel calls for FAITH

**John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

**Romans 10:9-10**<sup>9</sup> *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*<sup>10</sup> *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

**2 Timothy 1:12** *I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

- The gospel calls for REPENTANCE

**Acts 20:20-21**<sup>20</sup> *And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,*<sup>21</sup> *Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**1 Thessalonians 1:9-10**<sup>9</sup> *For they themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;*<sup>10</sup> *And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

- The gospel calls for OBEDIENCE

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**<sup>7</sup> *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,*<sup>8</sup> *In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*<sup>9</sup> *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.*

Faith, repentance, and obedience are not one-time things. They are life-long things.

The person who truly believes the gospel will keep on believing.

The person who truly repents will keep on repenting.

The person who truly obeys will keep on obeying.

Apply this message first to yourself, and then apply it to the people you know and care about (your family and friends).